

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of June 14, 2005. Upon entry of this response, Claims 14, 16-34, and 38-46 remain pending in the application. New claims 47-58 have been added.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-15, 17-25, 27-29, and 31-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0032573 to Williams et al. (hereafter ‘*Williams*’). More particularly, the Examiner has asserted that *Williams* discloses a method and system for “offering shipping services to a user via a buyer interface of an electronic procurement system” and further enables “the user to purchase shipping services via the electronic procurement system.” The rejection also states the term “electronic procurement system” is interpreted as being a “computerized system, within a company developed to alleviate the hassles that can be associated with maintaining a business procurement policy and to maximize access to data regarding business purchases.”

Williams does not disclose a method or system that integrates shipping services with an electronic procurement system configured according to an established procurement policy. Instead, the *Williams* reference is directed to a system and method for providing an enterprise, e.g., a business, with a single online user interface for providing access to a plurality of shipping service providers. When an employee of the enterprise needs to ship a package to a customer, the employee accesses an online user interface and inputs package information. Once the package information is entered, the system provides the employee, via an online display, with cost and delivery time comparisons between various shipping service providers. After choosing a particular shipping service from the various shipping service providers, the system provides the user with a shipping label.

The electronic procurement system of the present inventions is configured to maintain and implement a company’s procurement policy so that employees can purchase supplies (i.e., tangible goods), in conformity with the procurement policy. Once the supplies are purchased,

the electronic procurement system offers shipping services to the user, so that the user may ship their recently purchased supplies. By offering shipping services through an electronic procurement system, a company can record and track the cost of shipping the goods purchased via the electronic procurement system. In contrast, *Williams* discloses a system that is unrelated to the purchasing of supplies via an electronic procurement system.

Independent Claim 14

Pending Independent Claim 14 includes the limitation of, “allowing said user to purchase one or more goods from one or more of said suppliers.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 14, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 38

Pending Independent Claim 38 includes the limitation of, “the buyer procurement server configured to enable a user to purchase one or more goods from a selectable list of suppliers according to an established procurement policy.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 38, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection of Claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 40

Pending Independent Claim 40 includes the limitation of, “said electronic procurement system is configured to maintain a procurement policy and further configured to allow a user to purchase one or more goods from a selectable list of suppliers according to said procurement policy.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 40, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection of Claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

New Claim 47

New Independent Claim 47 includes the limitation of, “logging a user into an electronic procurement application; wherein said electronic procurement application is configured to maintain a procurement policy for purchasing goods from a set of suppliers.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 47, Applicants respectfully submits that Claim 47 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 16-34, 39, 41-46, and 48-58

In light of the amendments to Independent Claims 14, 38, and 40 and the distinguishing limitations included within Independent Claim 47, it is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not anticipate Dependent Claims 16-34, 39, 41-46, and 48-58. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejections to Claims 17-25, 27-29, and 31- 31, 39, and 41-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and Claims 16, 26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 14, 16-34, and 38-58 of the application are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney at (404) 881-4930 to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

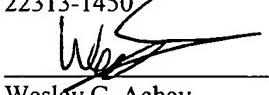
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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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<p>Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000 Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777</p>	<p>"Express Mail" mailing label number EL 952 536 292 Date of Deposit September 14, 2005</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p>  <p>Wesley C. Achey</p>
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